



Drug Recognition Expert Conference

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Thursday July 28, 2014, 9:30 a.m.

Arizona Biltmore

Thank you, Alberto ... and good morning, everyone!

I want to thank you all for joining us today ... and especially the men and women who help put together these insightful and successful conferences and training sessions in Arizona year after year.

To all the officers and others who have traveled to our great state from across the country and Canada to learn more about this important subject – welcome to Arizona!

Our citizens greatly value the work you do day in and day out to keep our families and communities safe.

We know you have a tough and sometimes unpleasant job, and you perform it with great dedication and sense of duty.

For that, you have our eternal support and gratitude.

And I'm confident this conference will make you and your departments even more effective at keeping us safe.

Unfortunately – and you can attest to this better than anyone -- drug and alcohol use are all too prevalent on Arizona's streets ... and across the continent.

The better able you are to recognize and deal with affected drivers ... and others you encounter while policing our communities ... the fewer innocent citizens will be injured or killed in avoidable incidents.

And with more and more states legalizing marijuana or allowing it for medical purposes, the need for experts in drug recognition continues to grow.

Arizona, as you probably know, is one of the states that allows doctors to issue medical marijuana cards for some ailments.

But we all know at least some of that gets into the wrong hands ... and is often misused for non-medicinal purposes.

You know, before Arizona voters approved medical marijuana, I had never realized what a virtual epidemic of chronic back pain we had walking around our state.

Once these liberalization trends take hold, they tend to grow. And the need for this kind of training and experience-sharing will grow, as well.

Arizona has long recognized the value of drug recognition expertise among our law enforcement professionals, and that's one of the reasons we're proud to host this conference and offer DRE training for officers throughout North America.

So I hope that you have a productive and worthwhile conference. And I also hope that while you're here, you are able to spend a little time ... and money ... enjoying our beautiful state.

Arizona is proud to be one of the most law enforcement-friendly states in the nation. We support you ... we value you ... and we always welcome you.

So learn well, enjoy your stay and visit us again soon!

Thank you.